

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An authentication method of an image processing system in which a host computer, an authentication apparatus and an image processing apparatus are connected to a network, the method comprising:

    a transmission step of, at the image processing apparatus, transmitting data for specifying the authentication apparatus to the host computer in a case where the host computer remotely operates the image processing apparatus;

    an authentication step of, at the host computer, causing the authentication apparatus specified by the data to perform an authentication process with respect to an operation level of the remote operation from the host computer to the image processing apparatus; and

    a remote operation step of, at the host computer, remotely operating the image processing apparatus in accordance with the operation level authenticated by the authentication apparatus ~~an authentication result of the authentication process~~ in said authentication step.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein in the transmission step add-on software including the data is transmitted to the host computer, and in said authentication step the authentication process is executed by the add-on software.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the authentication process is performed using ~~a dictionary which defines~~ codes stored in the host computer and a dictionary which defines operation levels ~~operations~~ with respect to the image processing apparatus.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the dictionary is contained in the authentication apparatus on the network.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the data is an address of the authentication apparatus on the network.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the remote operation is at least one of download, browsing, printing, and transfer.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) An image processing system in which a host computer, an authentication apparatus and an image processing apparatus are connected to a network, comprising:

a transmission unit configured to, at said image processing apparatus, transmit data for specifying the authentication apparatus to said host computer in a case where said host computer remotely operates said image processing apparatus;

an authentication unit configured to, at the host computer, cause the authentication apparatus specified by the data to perform an authentication process with respect

to an operation level of the remote operation from the host computer to the image processing apparatus;

and a remote operation unit configured to, at the host computer, remotely operate the image processing apparatus in accordance with the operation level authenticated an authentication result of the authentication process by said authentication [[unit]] apparatus.

Claims 8 and 9. (Canceled)

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium recording a program for causing a computer to execute an authentication method of an image processing system in which a host computer and an image processing apparatus are connected to a network, the method comprising:

    a transmission step of, at the image processing apparatus, transmitting data for specifying an authentication apparatus to the host computer in a case where the host computer remotely operates the image processing apparatus; and

    an authentication step of, at the host computer, causing the authentication apparatus specified by the data to perform an authentication process with respect to an operation level of the remote operation from the host computer to the image processing apparatus; and

    a remote operation step of, at the host computer, remotely operating the image processing apparatus in accordance the operation level authenticated by the authentication apparatus with an authentication result of the authentication process in said authentication step.